

Ipomea triloba, on the other hand, serves as shelter of various species of predatory lady beetle.

Harvesting

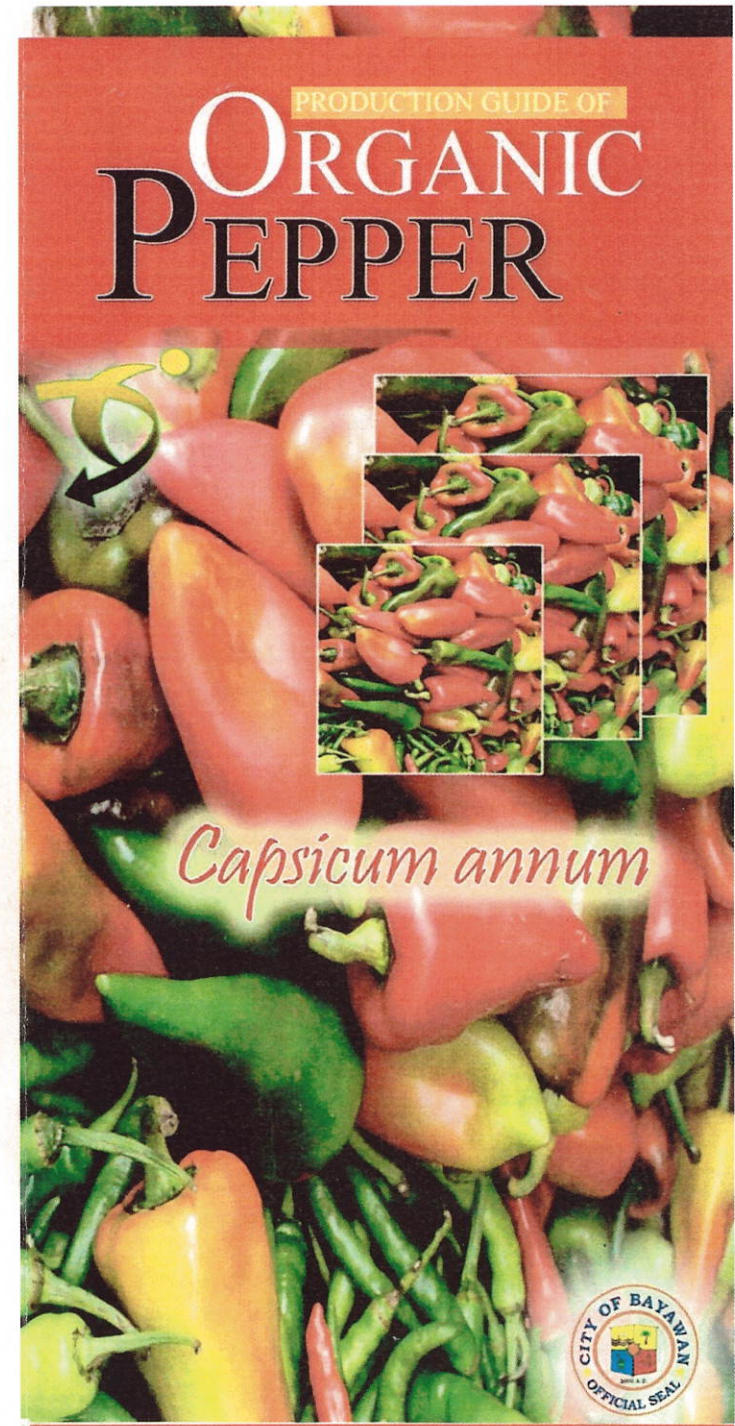
Pepper fruits can be harvested at 60 - 65 days after transplanting. Cut the fruits using a scissor beginning at the bottom. Put in perforated plastic and store in a cool place.



National Organic Agriculture Program



Reproduced by
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



PRODUCTION GUIDE OF ORGANIC PEPPER

Capsinum annum



Introduction

Pepper makes food more palatable by removing unpleasant odor from raw ingredients being used. Thus, almost all viand being served be it in fast food centers or in the homes, contain pepper. Pepper makes up a big market anywhere in the country both in fresh and processed food stuff like pickles and salads.

Sowing & Transplanting

Sweet pepper seeds must be put in seedling trays or boxes before transplanting in the field. Use potting medium that is porous, free from pathogens, weed seeds and can supply nutrients to the growing seedlings. After 25 – 30 days, the seedlings are now ready to be transplanted. If possible, transplant the seedlings late in the afternoon so that the seedlings will have time to resettle at night during which the roots establish themselves to the soil.

Fertilization

Apply vermin compost at the rate of 5 tons per hectare or 1/2 kilogram per square meter. Cover the plot by the use of plastic mulching film, rice straw, or any other biodegradable materials. Bore holes according to the desired and recommended planting distance. Top dress again at flowering stage or as needed at the rate of 100 grams per hill.

Spray or drench natural fermented solutions (NFS) a week after transplanting and weekly thereafter. The three stages of the plant would be the basis for the recommendation of the solution. Use 500ml of diluted solution in 16 liters of water.

The recommended rate of spraying in accordance to the growth stages of the plant is indicated on the table.

NFS - Inputs	Vegetative	Changeover	Reproductive
IMO	5%	5%	5%
FAA	50%	15%	15%
FPJ	15%	20%	10%
FFJ	15%	30%	50%
CalPhos	15%	30%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Pest & Disease Management

Spraying should be done early in the morning or late in the afternoon. The decision to spray must be based on the economic threshold level of the target organism and the damage of the disease as visually manifested on the plant itself. In a truly organic world, all possible control in battling pest and diseases (cultural, physical, biological, mechanical control) must be followed first before resorting to the last option of synthetic chemical spraying. The following are the recommended practices:

1. *Panyawan/Makabuhay* Solution – to be extracted using the ratio of 1:1:2 (panyawan:molasses:water). Use 3 tablespoons of the solution per liter of water. Spray directly to the target organism.

The solution can also be extracted by pounding using mortar and pestle then strain the liquid.

Mix the *panyawan* and water in a 1:1 ratio. Spray directly to the target organism using the same dosage of 3 tablespoons per liter of water.

2. Chili Extract – the liquid can be used for various insect pests (soft bodied insects, sucking insects). Use the same method in extracting *panyawan*, but when using fresh fruits, select 20-25 regular size fruits for every 16 liters of water.
3. Garlic, Onion and Ginger Solution – these are sulfur accumulators. They can effectively control fungal diseases. Use the same extraction process as the *makabuhay/panyawan* solution in a 1:1 ratio.
4. Spray compost tea and vermin tea to control foliar diseases and to strengthen plant immune system.
5. Spray Lactic Acid Bacteria Serum (LABS) to increase the number of beneficial microorganism that will help suppress pathogenic microbes.
6. Manual collection of larvae and pupae helps control population of insect pests.
7. Gradual removal of disease plant parts reduces incidence of disease outbreak.
8. Weeds must be constantly removed to avoid competition in nutrients, moisture and sunlight. Weeds also serve as alternate host for insect pests and sources of disease inocula. However, there are some weeds species that must be retained as the spiny amaranth (*Amaranthus spinosus*) which harbors varied species of spiders and predatory flower bug.